

Camp near New York July 13th 1844

My Dearest Friend

I have great reason to
believe that a ship will sail for England
either to day or tomorrow, & I am determined
not to miss the opportunity of writing to
you though I am afraid you have almost
forgotten there is such a person existing as
I have received but one letter from you
God knows where, however I will not do you
the injustice though I say it, to think

51.

I will give you great pleasure

I hear that we gave Brother Jonathan
a good trimming the other day. We made
a movement with the army from Anby as
far as Hillsborough in order to attack
Mr Washington but found him so strong
posted that it was thought more prudent
to retire back to Anby than attack
which was certain of being attended
with great loss, though I have no doubt
but we should have carried our point.
His Majesty's Motion gave the Royal
a little glimmering of courage, &
they determined to harrow our rear as
crossed the ferry at
an ~~embarked~~ ^{embarked} place ~~at~~ ^{on} Staten Island, to
which place we were to go to embark
for the great & secret expedition this

has been long a hatching. For this purpose
Lord Sterling who felt himself bold and
detached with six or seven thousand men,
this was just what General Howe wished,
he gave out orders for the embarkation of
the army as for the next day, but instead
of doing so, we marched that very night
in two columns so as to be able to
beat up his headquarters at
day break, the right column under
Lord Cornwallis in which I had the honor
to command an advanced guard
went in with them just a little after
day break & we drove them above the
distance of eight miles from night

to night, till at last Brethren, we
thought better to go quite off, we
killed I believe a great many though
I can't say I saw many he had as much
on so much, took 3 pieces of Cannon
& about two hundred prisoners & we
have since heard that they carried off
between thirty & forty Waggons full of
wounded. The loss on our side is some
worth mentioning (Don't believe we
had thirty killed & wounded) except
from French of the guards who received
his death wound, as he took possession
of one of the Rebel guns, alone, having
out run the rest of the Light Battery
of the guards, he received a shot though

the body & fell under the cannon
he had taken. he is the only officer we
have lost & is very much lamented, as a friend
or brother. Fellow never stops. we returned
the next day to Paboy & evacuated the
Islands without Retention. The troops
are now embarked, except those that are
left to defend New York Island, at present
our fleet is in that predicament but
we are to follow as soon as the shipping
can come back to fetch us, there are
not horse transports sufficient for
both regts at once & the other is the
1st Den.

We have just received the disagreeable

Intelligence, that that Blockhead ^{General} French
has suffered himself to be taken a
second time by the Rebels, he commanded
at Rhode Island, & was so little upon
his guard that he lodged at a house
at a distance from his troops & had
only a corporal & a few at a house
about a hundred yards from him as his guard,
the Rebels to the number of thirty commanded
by a Major Barton an enterprising Thoroughbred
landed in two Whaler Boats about
half a mile from his house, & proceeded
up a Ravine that comes up to the point
of it, here they met with only one party
the of all accounts was not loaded,

from they ~~scoured~~ & then took the General
& his aid to camp Mr Bawington a student
of our friends, waked out of their beds
& carried them off. I am afraid they will
see him ill, but can't help thinking
deserves it for being such a damned stupid
blockhead.

We have an express arrived from
Burgoyne this week with the news of
his having taken Ticonderoga, with all
their cannon & stores. The particulars
I don't know, ^{however} ~~it is~~ dated the 2^d of Aug.

I hope you amuse yourself well in
your present situation & enjoy your health which

that you may lay us in the constant & sincere
Prayer of My Dearest Friends

With affectionate regards

Yours Truly
J. W. Stanley.

I am to join Burgess's family as a side
camp when we meet.